

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite a two component copolymer of ethylene and a C1 to C8 alkyl ester of an unsaturated carboxylic acid (B). This amendment is supported by the specification, at least the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 and Examples. Claim 1 has also been amended to replace "comprising" with --consisting essentially of--. Claims 4-9 were previously canceled.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-3 and 10-24 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

a. Claims 1, 3 and 11-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,217,982 to Dawson.

b. Claims 2 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dawson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,179,168 to Hirasawa.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are novel and patentable over Dawson, alone or in combination with Hirasawa, for at least the following reasons.

Sole independent claim 1 recites a resin composition consisting essentially of 5-50 parts by weight of a potassium ionomer (A) of an ethylene-unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer, 0.5 to 20 parts by weight of a two component copolymer of ethylene and a C1 to C8 alkyl ester of an unsaturated carboxylic acid (B) and 94.5 to 30 parts by weight of a thermoplastic resin (C) other than (A) and (B).

The recited resin composition can provide superior anti-static properties, processability and compatibility. Moreover, the recited resin composition can provide improved processability without impairing physical properties of high crystalline polyolefin resin and molded articles therefrom can have a good-appearance.

Dawson describes a calenderable composition containing a copolymer of ethylene and glycidyl acrylate or glycidyl methacrylate. In contrast, the resin composition of present claim 1 consists essentially of components (A), (B) and (C), and does not contain a copolymer of ethylene and glycidyl acrylate or glycidyl methacrylate.

Further, as noted above, the presently claimed resin composition can provide superior results in terms of anti-static properties, processability and compatibility. Dawson does not teach or suggest at least how to improve the anti-static properties of a resin composition.

Hirasawa describes a blend comprising ethylene/unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymers (A) and (B) which have different acid contents and are at least partially neutralized to have an alkali metal in an amount of at least 0.4 millimole but smaller than 1.3 millimoles per gram of the ionomer composition. As Hirasawa does not rectify the above noted deficiencies of Dawson, the combination of Hirasawa and Dawson still would not result in the subject matter of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is novel and patentable over Dawson, alone or in combination with Hirasawa, and thus the rejections should be withdrawn. Additionally, claims 2, 3 and 10-24 depend from claim 1, directly or indirectly, and thus are patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions

concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 452-7932 at her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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